Managed Detection and Response

Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) provides Managed Detection and Response (MDR) and other cybersecurity tools and services to local governments, government-affiliated critical infrastructure providers, and K-12 public schools in Minnesota.

MNIT's goal through the Whole-of-State Cybersecurity Plan is to strengthen Minnesota's cyber resiliency and use grant funding to help offset costs of cybersecurity services to local entities.

About MDR

MDR is a fully managed, anti-virus tool that provides the highest protection against cybersecurity threats.

MDR actively scans for threat signatures – a typical pattern associated with a malicious attack, as well as threat indicators, and unusual behavior.

MDR identifies and protects against potentially malicious actions that lead to data breaches, ransomware, or other major cyber incident.

How it works

Sensors are installed on workstations, laptops, and servers to monitor for security risks and malicious activity. In addition, human analysts do real-time threat hunting, searching for activity that may be associated with new or emerging threats.

MNIT works with a third-party MDR vendor to provide this cloud-based service. MNIT's Cyber Navigator team and Security Operation Center (SOC) provide assistance during the implementation process and after MDR is deployed to ensure partner agencies receive the best product and services available.

Benefits

MNIT's MDR service is designed to relieve the pressure agencies face in an ever-evolving threat landscape.

By partnering with MNIT through the Minnesota Whole-of-State Cybersecurity Plan, entities have:

- Access to the most advanced security solutions at a subsidized cost.
- 24/7/365 monitoring by the vendor's security operation team.
- Support of the MNIT Cyber Navigator team and SOC, including eyes on devices and potential threats.
- Protection of devices (workstations and servers) and nearly every operating system.
- Response to and mitigation of threats prior to an active exploitation, compromise, or exfiltration of data.
- Protection against primary attacks, including malicious links and attachments, credential compromises, and exploitation of vulnerabilities in your network.
- Access to training and demonstrations upon request, through regularly scheduled sessions, and formal virtual and in-person opportunities.

Apply today

All Minnesota local government entities and public K-12 schools are eligible to apply for MNIT's MDR program. This includes Minnesota counties, cities, townships, rural communities, government-affiliated critical infrastructure, public K-12 school districts, Tribal Nations, council of governments, or other public agencies.

To apply, become a participant in Minnesota's Whole-of-State Cybersecurity Plan:

- **Fill out the Whole-of-State Survey** with your organization's information: https://forms.office.com/g/qASJ7eEZHe
- **Notify the Cyber Navigator team** after you complete the survey: CN.MNIT@state.mn.us
- **Sign up** for Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Hygiene Services: www.cisa.gov/cyber-hygiene-services

A Cyber Navigator will schedule a meeting to review roles and share paperwork. Participants commit to the calendar year in which they sign up and one additional calendar year. After documents are signed, MNIT will schedule a kick-off meeting and provide a deployment timeline.

Cost

MNIT offers MDR at a reduced cost for eligible entities through cybersecurity grants. Contact the Cyber Navigator team for specific costs: CN.MNIT@state.mn.us.

Additional services for Minnesota counties

The following services are available to Minnesota counties, with the cost subsidized by cybersecurity grants.

- **External Vulnerability Management Service:** Uses sophisticated vulnerability scanning services to help identify vulnerabilities and threats that may impact an organization's internet-facing systems.
- **Internal Vulnerability Management Service:** Uses enterprise-class vulnerability assessment tools to continuously identify, assess, and prioritize security vulnerabilities.

MNIT is considering offering additional tools and services, and the Cyber Navigator team welcomes feedback.

Contact the MNIT Cyber Navigator team with questions or for more information: CN.MNIT@state.mn.us.